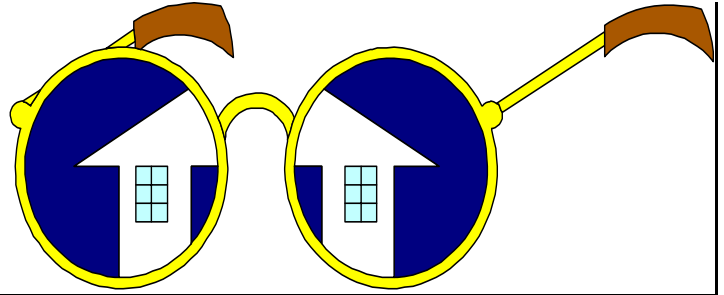


# Super Sentinel



November, 2001

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Terri's

**Tidbits**

## G.A.I.N. 2001

This year we sent out more than 1500 invitations to our 3rd annual G.A.I.N. Kick Off event on September 13th, with almost 400 in attendance. Our district had one of the better showings with 103 captains and assistant captains present, representing 71 out of approximately 276 Neighborhood Watches. Considering the tragic events of that week, it was a respectable showing.



Those of you who attended the event at the HoHoKam Stadium saw the results of months of planning and hard work by not only the Neighborhood Watch Coordinators, but all of the

Community Relations unit, (especially the events coordinator, Lindy Marino), and other unit volunteers. In addition, other City of Mesa Departments and Police units participated by providing information and demonstrations of their special equipment. The food was once again catered by the students of E.V.I.T. (East Valley Institute of Technology) and was awesome, as expected. All of those who attended appeared to have had a very good time and enjoyed the food. Many favorable comments have been received. Many of the officers and Neighborhood Watch captains were able to visit and exchange information and ideas. Before the event was even over, plans were being made for next year. **One thing to keep in mind: If you want your spouse or significant other to attend our special functions, please make sure they are added as a co-captain or assistant.**

October 20, 2001, was a wonderful day to go out into the neighborhoods and visit. The participants enjoyed fine weather, good food, and visits by City and State dignitaries, along with Police and City of Mesa representatives. There were approximately 160 parties city wide. There were Halloween parties, one neighborhood had live music, parties that watched the AZ Diamondbacks win, kiddie parades and BBQ's. Some parties were just old fashioned "get-togethers" with a little potluck or ice cream. However big or small, every party had one thing in common: *They all were promoting the Neighborhood Watch program in their respective neighborhoods.*

Superstition district had 40 registered parties for the GAIN event. Remember, the official date and times were Oct. 20th between 4pm and 9pm. There were others that held parties earlier in the day or on some other day close to GAIN, but they were not recognized as a "GAIN Event" for our purposes. But, whenever parties were held, they still counted toward the two required events, if they qualified.

Next year we hope that more of you will plan your events to correlate with GAIN. It gives us a chance to come out to at least one of your events and visit, plus it gives you the opportunity to have one of our specialty units visit your party. If you are looking for the party that is different from the others you have during the year, think of GAIN. After our 4th quarter captain's open house and workshop you may have other really terrific party ideas that you want to show us. I might even show up with my camera!

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## AVIATION UNIT



Mesa Police Department began its fixed-wing program in 1986 on a part-time basis. Qualified rated pilots from within the department supplied transportation and surveillance service. Currently, the section operates two fixed-wing aircraft- a Cessna 172N and Piper PA28-236. The Cessna's role is to support the Special Investigations Unit with aerial surveillance as needed. The Piper is utilized for long distance travel and to expedite the collection of evidence from distant locations within the state.

In January 1994, the Department leased two McDonnell Douglas 500E turbine helicopters and the Aviation became a full time unit. On Dec. 31,2000, flight hours totaled 20,000 accident-free rotary wing flight hours. This represents the fulfillment of the Aviation Section's mission to enhance the level of protection and service to patrol and fire personnel, along with the citizens of the community.

The MPD helicopters average 10 flight hours per day, seven days a week. They answer an average of 48 calls per day. If the helicopter is in the air, the average response time to a scene is 36 seconds. Since its inception, the Aviation Unit has assisted in recovering over \$4,600,000 in stolen property and has located close to 1,500 missing persons, most of which have been children.

The staff consists of 4 full-time helicopter pilots, 3 part-time fixed wing pilots, four full-time Tactical Flight Officers and 15 part time Tactical Flight Officers, all of which are sworn police officers.

The helicopter is flown at an altitude of 500 feet, which makes it visible from the ground. The onboard public address system and the search lights are only used during investigations of criminal activity or while searching for missing persons. Noise control is of the utmost importance to both the MPD and the Aviation unit, that is why when the helicopter is flying over a residential area, there is a valid reason for it being there.



### Reminder

Do you want to make sure that your spouse or significant other is included in all activities pertaining to Neighborhood Watch ? Please call me to add them on as your partner.



For example: Neighborhood Watch captain May Smith, whose husband is Paul, will change to "May/Paul Smith" in all of our Neighborhood Watch records. This will ensure that you both will be included in all activities pertaining to Neighborhood Watch, including the G.A.I.N. Kick Off.

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### Important Telephone Numbers



Terri Teten ..... 644-3692  
*Superstition Neighborhood Watch Coordinator*

*Emergency or Crime in Progress..... 911*  
*Community Relations Unit.....644-2300*  
*Community Relations FAX.....644-2800*  
*Police Non-Emergency.....644-2211*  
*Silent Witness.....1-800-343-TIPS*  
*Narcotics Hotline .....(602)644-5081*  
*Graffiti Hotline.....644-3083*  
*Gang Hotline.....644-4264*

## Safe Seniors Program Update

Karen Stegenga, Crime Prevention Specialist and Coordinator of the SAFE Senior Program, was asked to speak recently at two conferences back east on the Mesa Police Department's Elder Abuse Project. The first phase of the Project was started in 1999 with Mesa LEAPS, and a 3-year partnership with the Office of the Arizona Attorney General was initiated in January of this year. The goal of the Project is to track the number of elder abuse cases in Mesa, and devise a prevention and education program.

The SAFE Senior Program also addresses the issues of personal safety and fraud schemes. A Fraud Alert Hotline was set-up in April to provide information on fraud schemes and con games occurring in the area. You can call 480-644-2345 to hear a recording of recent events. If your group or organization is interested in hearing a presentation on fraud schemes, personal safety, or elder abuse please contact Karen Stegenga at 480-644-5014 and she'd be happy to meet with you. Please remember to give at least 2-3 weeks notice when booking a presentation. If you have any information on fraud schemes, or if you have been a victim, please do not hesitate to call Karen Stegenga. \*\*

## A Treat from the GAIN Kickoff

Did you enjoy sampling all of the foods from the different countries provided by the students of E.V.I.T. at our G.A.I.N. Kickoff? Did you miss some of the booths or were you unable to make the Kick-off? Well, if you did not sample the food from the Africa booth you missed a real treat. I tried the cookies they were awesome and I asked E.V.I.T. if they would share their recipe. Enjoy!!!

### Sesame Almond Cookies

#### Ingredients:

1 Cup packed brown sugar  
1 Cup soft shortening  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon baking soda  
4 Cups Cake or All Purpose flour  
1/4 Cup egg whites  
1 Cup toasted sliced almonds  
Sesame seeds

Mix all ingredients except for the almonds and Sesame seeds together in a bowl until smooth. Add almonds and mix well. Make dough into 1 inch balls and roll in the sesame seeds. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 min. or until slightly browned. Balls of cookies take longer than regular flat cookie shapes. If too dry, add a little more egg white. Let set before serving to allow the cookie to harden. \*\*



## HOLIDAY TIPS



Nothing can ruin the Christmas spirit faster than becoming a victim.

Don't leave your drapes open with presents in plain view.

Always keep your live tree properly watered and lights off while you are gone.

Make sure it appears that the home is occupied if you are leaving town for holidays.

Don't advertise your new purchases by placing the empty boxes in the trash.

Always use the trunk of your vehicle to store packages out of sight.

Keep your vehicle locked.

Don't allow your handbag to dangle on your shoulder. Carry small amounts of cash and only the credit cards you plan to use.



*Great People, Quality Service!*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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terri\_teten@ci.mesa.az.us

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MESA, ARIZONA  
PERMIT NO. 160

## !!!!!! ATTENTION !!!!!

Our fourth quarter Captain's "Open House" will be Thursday, December 13, 2001, from 2 PM to 8 PM at the Superstition Substation, 2430 S. Ellsworth, Mesa. This will not be the traditional meeting, but a time to come in and stock up on any supplies you may need.

For all of you new captains, co-captains and assistant captains, (or those of you wanting a "refresher course"), there will be "new captain's workshops", offered throughout the afternoon. There will be 6 workshop sessions each approximately 45 minutes long. Each session will contain the same information: how to complete the necessary paperwork for your Neighborhood Watch and an informal presentation on ideas for events and encouraging resident



participation in your neighborhood's gatherings. Lindy Marino, Crime Prevention Specialist and Events Coordinator for the Crime Prevention Unit of the Mesa Police Department will be giving the program "Party Planning" and discuss the various ideas you can use to help insure successful get-togethers.



Space for each workshop is limited. Please call 644-3692 or 644-2300 to reserve your place.

If you don't want to attend the workshop, just come pick up your crime prevention materials and visit with your district personnel.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR !**





Hello everyone. I am Sandy Driscoll , the Commander of the Superstition Patrol Substation. In the last newsletter I enclosed a flyer introducing myself as the new Commander at Superstition. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet several of you personally.

The first opportunity was on September 13<sup>th</sup> at GAIN Kickoff. I asked the event organizer, Lindy Marino, to have a method in which we as commanders could identify people attending by the patrol district they

live in. That way we could make every effort to meet the people in our districts. The Superstition Substation was given the designator of mountains. I enjoyed talking to a lot of people with the mountain label on their chests. I am told that our area had a very good turnout. Thank you for supporting this important event.

My next opportunity to meet several of you and your neighbors was on GAIN night, October 20<sup>th</sup>. What a fun event and a great way to get to know your neighbors and meet people involved with the police department. I was able to make it to five parties and I had a great time. People were friendly, asked questions, and had great food! A lot of officers from this substation made it to parties and they said the same thing, they really enjoyed meeting all of you. I hope you enjoyed the event and will participate again next year.

September 11, 2001 was a day that changed all our lives. Our sense of safety has changed. The media has said that law enforcement is increasing its level of security. Here are some of the things Mesa is doing. The City of Mesa has increased security at our water treatment plants, put together a hazmat response team to handle citizens calls of suspicious letters and packages, identified potential targets for terrorist attacks or hate crimes and encouraged citizens to report anything that they may think is suspicious. Our Police and Fire Departments are working at a higher level of awareness. In the past there were things that may not have been suspicious or of concern to us as a City and as a community. Because of recent events we have all changed the way we look at things in our lives. The important thing to remember is terrorist work through fear. We cannot let them make us fearful of everything we do or they will have won.

This is my first article for the newsletter. I look forward to communicating with all of you through this format and future Block Captain meetings. Take care and be safe!



### The Most Hazardous Intersections in Mesa

The following is a list of the top 10 intersections with Police calls for service for vehicle accidents in the City of Mesa for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2001.

Intersection	# of Calls	Intersection	# of Calls
1. Mesa Dr. & Southern Ave.	40	6. Country Club Dr. & Southern Ave.	30
2. Gilbert Rd. & Southern Ave.	39	7. Stapley Dr. & Southern Ave.	29
3. Dobson Rd. & Southern Ave.	35	8. Alma School Rd. & Guadalupe Rd.	28
4. Gilbert Road & Baseline Road	34	9. Broadway Rd. & Stapley Rd.	28
5. Country Club Dr. & McKellips Rd	31	10. Broadway Rd. & Mesa Dr.	27



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM G.A.I.N. 2001



Officers and Children had a lot in common: Food !



Police Officer of the Future!



Traditional Potluck was one of the major themes.



All guys are alike when it comes to cars!



Some of the Neighborhood parties used a Halloween theme.



Everyone loved the tours of the Command Van.